



The December HARBINGER



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South Side
Christian Church
December 2011

Trains of Thought; “THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING”

Can you believe it? It's Christmastime again!! The shopping season is in full swing: try driving past the mall if you doubt that. Everyone's rushing to and fro looking for the perfect gifts for family-members and friends – even for their pets! And wouldn't you know it – the merchants are prodding us on with all their catchy slogans. Among those slogans and catchy word-plays is one that we hear most every year – “Give THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING”. It almost seems that it just wouldn't be Christmas without that one.

Did you ever wonder where that phrase came from? I did a little research, and learned that the phrase “Give the gift that keeps on giving” was first used by the Victor Corporation in 1924 to promote their “talking machines and parts thereof, and records for the same”. It was a marketing phrase for early “Victorolas” and the wax records played on them. The company filed the phrase with the Federal Government as a product trade-mark on January 1, 1925, and it was finally duly registered on February 15, 1927 (even then, the bureaucracy was a bit slow)

Since then, other companies and businesses have employed the phrase to promote their products. Sudbury Soil Test kits did so in the War Year of 1944: the New York Times claimed to be that gift in 1948, as did the Macy Music Center in the same year. In the “not-so-distant past” 1970s, both the National Geographic and Sports Illustrated marketed themselves as gifts “that keep on giving”. Other local businesses have also marketed their wares on the strength of this phrase: jewelry stores, for instance, trying to guilt guys into buying jewelry for their best girls. And you know you can claim anything in an ad on TV and radio, or in the newspaper.

Allow me to suggest to you that we have to go back a lot farther than 1924 to find the One Gift that truly Keeps on Giving. It won't be found in Macy's or Walmart or on the pages of some popular modern publication, or even on radio or TV. And it won't be delivered to you by the mailman, UPS or FedEx.

The One Gift that truly Keeps on Giving was delivered to mankind in the manger of Bethlehem's stable about two thousand years ago when God sent His Son to be born as Jesus the Christ, the Savior of the world. For those of us who have received that Greatest Gift as our own, there's so much to be grateful for – and there's so much for us to share with a lost and disintegrating world.

Think about it – our Gift that Keeps on Giving is **THE GIFT THAT WILL GIVE ETERNALLY!!**

PRAISE GOD AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Mike



**Christmas
Eve
Service
Saturday,
December 24
6:00 pm**



**Christmas
Service
Sunday,
December 25
10:30 am**

Christian Education classes will not be meeting. Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 am in the fireside room.



Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Studies

10:00 am
 Laura Carpenter
 (844-6020)
 for location and details

Kara Ladies Group

December 12th
 At Cheryl Martin's Home
 at 1209 Winterberry Lane,
 Schererville, IN
 6:15 pm
 For details call Cheryl
 219-836-2110 or 865-0280

Ruth Group

1st Thursday of each month
 12:00 Noon
 Call Leona Parsley
 219- 844-8611 for details

Loyal Friends

4th WEDNESDAY of each month
 Bring a sack lunch
 Dessert and drinks provided
 12:00 Noon
 For details call Ruth Mann 932-9085

SENIOR SAINTS

Will not meet the month of
 December. Will resume on
 Tuesday, January 10th

MERRY CHRISTMAS

South Side's "TO DO" List

In your home you probably have a Honey-Do-List, the deacons also have a list and were wondering if there are any Honeys out there willing to lend a helping hand. Please see the list below and if you are willing to help with any of these tasks please contact Bill Weichert, Building and Grounds Chairman or the church office 219-836-2110.



Sanctuary Storage Room

Install trim around attic access

Common area

Clean brick around office,

Nursery

Install nursing curtain rail and curtain,

Small Furnace Room by Preschool

Fix ceiling

Room #3

Fix light in bathroom , Replace sink and faucet, Replace overhead light in bathroom

Room #4

Install full length mirror, Replace overhead light in bathroom,

Boiler Room

Install guard on air handler

Jr. High Room

Replace lights in room, Mount TV in NW corner

Room #14

Install ceiling tile & rail in NW corner, Replace lights

High School Room

Replace lights in room, Replace ceiling tiles (2) Install grate on ceiling air return, Install thermostat cover

Room #17

Install J-Channel for drop ceiling around closet, Replace ceiling tiles (1)

Room #18

Install J-Channel for drop ceiling around closet

Room #19

Install J-Channel for drop ceiling around closet (inside and out)

Fireside Room

Fix fireplace (needs new log), Install trim under counter, Install oak filler pieces on each end of counter at opening, Replace ceiling tiles near fireside wall. Put cabinet up in the attic.

Big Kitchen

Replace lights in room, Install vent covers, Install insulation in ceiling in pantry, Fix insulation & Install ceiling tile

Men's Room in Gym

Replace ceiling tile

Men's Room by Sanctuary

Install mirrors, Relocate light-bar

Ladies Room by Sanctuary

Replace ceiling tiles (1)

Room #21

Replace ceiling tile outside of room Repair insulation in ceiling,

Room #20

Install cold air returns Install thermostat cover

New items are being added weekly. If you have a task to add please see the forms in the office. (above the phone)



South Side Youth Group partners with the Salvation Army



The Youth Group donated all its “collected food” to the Salvation Army last month. It was wonderful to bless a food pantry with so much food for the busy holiday season. The teens unloaded well over a 1000 individual food items. These items were collected in Munster neighborhoods over two weekends. Since SSCC does not operate a food pantry anymore, it is very comforting to know that our food is being used by a quality organization like the Salvation Army. They have the procedures in place to make sure the food goes where it is needed. After we unloaded the food The Major Jan Sjorgen talked to the kids about helping people in our community. One of the things we learned was that the SA food pantry in Munster had to close down last summer for the first time because of lack of food. We are considering moving our canned food drive to summer in the future to make sure this doesn’t happen. Apparently summer is the lean time for food donations. Plus our students would be able to collect longer hours when school is out and the daylight will last longer. It’s an interesting possibility.

Indiana Christian Youth Convention 2011



Twelve students attended the annual Indiana Christian Youth Convention at Anderson University this past November. The ICYC is a weekend youth convention in which all Christian teens in Indiana gather for: worship, teaching, and fun. Anderson has become a special place for the SSCC youth group since we have been going to Anderson University for a long, long time. ICYC is full of a lot of memories and fun times. Jason French from Christ in Youth spoke to the students about, “Counting the Cost”, which was the theme for the weekend. The messages were very powerful as well as the worship and other special events.



Merry Christmas

I would like to wish all my SSCC family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all the encouragement and support you have given me. Although I hope Pastor Mike never has to take time off for medical reasons again, I did enjoy preaching and working with the worship teams, as we planned worship services. We have a big year ahead of us in 2012. The children’s and youth ministries still need lots of new volunteers and lots of new programs. But I’m happy to be at SSCC. We are blessed with work in a community that is vibrant and growing.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Teen Volleyball schedules. Games will begin in January.

Beta Sigma Chi Teen Small Groups
Sunday
6:00 - 7:00 pm
*9-12 graders can eat out after!

Beta Sigma Chi Teen Bible Study
Wednesday nights
5:00 - 6:00 pm



KIDS CLUB

1st - 5th GRADERS
SUNDAY EVENINGS
6:00 - 7:00 pm



December Birthdays

David Runyan 02
 Gwen Campbell 02
 Kathy Murphy 02
 Leon Ruiz 02
 Marjorie Okeley 03
 Mary Robinson 03
 Merry Funston 03
 Sandra Irizarry 04
 Ellen Haag 05
 Frances White 05
 Howard Caine 06
 Anna Conner 07
 Glenna Chapman 07
 Ryan Larimer 10
 Frances Dorris 12
 Gwen Janiga 12
 Pamela Jostes 13
 Cheryl Martin 15
 Noa Kayser 15
 Timothy Fordyce 16

Tony Fornaciari 16
 Lynn Barnes 17
 Rebecca Kayser 17
 Jean Kessler 19
 Mary Frevert 19
 John Garcia 20
 Richard Garcia 20
 Richard Hughes 21
 Mary Jay 26
 Allen Smith 27
 Annaliese Ford 27
 Glenn Haag 27
 Mike Gillespie 28
 Tim Scheeringa 30



BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH READING PROGRAM

SO... LET THE Reading continue ...

Reading Selections for remainder of 2011

December Revelation

Reading Selections for 2012

January I & II Chronicles
 February I & II Timothy
 March Book of Job
 April Book of James



Remember we track your readings and will acknowledge your participation in January. Mark your connection card each month or call the church office 219-836-2110

Finance Facts

Attendance and weekly tithes and offerings

Date	Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
October 30	Non-taken	\$8,062.50
November 6	226	\$9,154.71
November 13	224	\$7,221.50
November 20	226	\$6,011.40
November 27	245	\$7,322.21

The Ugandan Orphan Choir

I want to extend to you my sincerest appreciation for the hospitality and grace demonstrated to the children and staff of the Ugandan Orphans Choir during their recent visit to your church!

Many thanks to you and your congregation for allowing the choir and staff to share the reality of life for children living in developing countries. This opportunity was of eternal value.

You may already be aware but your congregation profoundly blessed us with their generosity! In fact after a final accounting of the love offering and number of children sponsored, your church gave \$1,444.06 and a grateful two children were sponsored! We praise the Lord for this provision and what it will mean for the lives of many, many, children!

If you have any further questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me, May God richly bless you and you're your congregation in the years ahead.

Until He returns,
 Shawn Morton, Director of U.S. Ministries

A ministry of Childcare Worldwide
 1971 Midway Lane, Bellingham, WA 98226
www.childcareworldwide.org/choir



Chicagoland Christian Village would like to thank everyone who gave money and bought gifts for their Christmas Angel Tree.

Thanks, Gwen Campbell, Bonnie Johnson,
 and Bernie Thomas

OPERATION SHOEBOX

Kara Ladies would like to thank everyone who contributed we were able to send 42 boxes.

**INTERVARSITY MISSION at ISU**

Prayer Points: 1. Praise God for answered prayers of a community of friends here in Bloomington-Normal! 2. Praise God for two recommitted lives at Fall Conference! 3. Pray for students to take risks in their faith as we call them to greater commitment and ownership. 4. Pray for my fiancé Zac and me as we continue to balance wedding planning with our work. 5. Pray for students to continue pursuing God over winter break.

Thank you so much for your continued support as I'm in my fourth year on staff! (Can you believe it?) I am so grateful for your partnership and God's provision. This past year my funding had it's ups and downs, and I still need to raise 40% of my budget, which is significant. Last year, I didn't receive all of my grant money, but it's possible to get the remaining amount this year if giving increases. Why do I ask you to give? I believe in what God is doing in ISU students! Lives are added to the Kingdom and God is raising up future church leaders! I believe this is worth our investment of time and money. Increased financial support translates immediately into less time I must spend fundraising, and into more time on campus with students living out the Gospel. Would you please prayerfully consider giving or increasing your giving?

You can give online at:
donate.intervarsity.org/Amy_DeVries.

Amy DeVries 109 College
 Park Ct., Apt 102, Normal, IL
 61761 217.841.5733 agdvd26@gmail.com


**CHRISTIAN STUDENT FOUNDATION
 BALL STATE UNIVERSITY**

We appreciate the support and prayers of South Side Christian Church. Our partnership with you sends a very important message to Ball State students that the church cares about them and wants to reach out to them with the gospel of Christ.

May God continue to bless and direct you this season as we proclaim and celebrate the birth of Jesus in whom we find hope and peace.

God bless and Merry Christmas,
 Mark Pike
 Christian Campus House at Ball State University

Christian Student Foundation, 1411 W. Riverside Ave.,
 Muncie IN 47303, 765.289.7133, twitter.com/cchmark,

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER
 P.O. Box 24180
 Chicago, Ill. 60624**


November 28, 2011

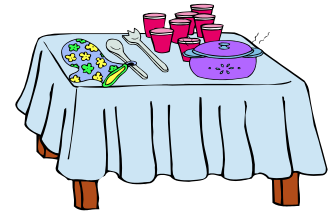
Thanks for your incessant prayers and regular financial support of the Christian Service Center.

Because you (and others) cared, many inner city residents heard the good news about Jesus, God's only Son. And many lives were changed. For instance, a few young men, Jessie Roberson and Darrel Winters, are gospel preachers. Rufus Boykin was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins recently. Additionally, we kept a daily average of 33 children off the street in our summer day camp.

These are some of the results of your missionary endeavors on the west side of Chicago. Thanks for your unfailing support and continue to walk with the Lord. God bless.

Yours in Christ, Elroy M. Leach.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION POTLUCK December 18th



All church fellowship
honoring our new members. Potluck will begin immediately after the
service. Chicken, lemonade, coffee , silverware, plates, and glasses will be provid-
ed. Please bring a dish that feeds 12-16 people.

Kara Ladies Group collecting gloves, hats and scarves for the Homeless.
Please bring them to the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 18th.
Will be sharing them when we serve the Homeless Dinner on Sunday,
December 18th at 3:00 pm



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and
the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his
name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**

From your staff:

Mike Gillespie, Senior Minister

Steve Clark, Youth Minister

Martin Dych, Deaf Minister

Cheryl Martin, Office Manager

Audrey Tucker, Custodian